2004 Current FY Report: Review of Federal Advisory Committee

1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Energy	**2004**
3. Committee or SubCommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee	**10671**

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	**11/5/2002**	**1/30/2005**	**9/30/2005**

8a. Was Terminated During FY?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c.Actual Termination Date
No	**P.L. 106-193**	

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FY	10a.Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b.Legislation Pending?
Continue		

11. Establishment Authority **Statutory(Congress Created)**

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
P.L. 106-193	**5/2/2000**	**Continuing**	**No**

15. Description of Committee **Scientific Technical Program Advisory Board**

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Titles and Dates

Letter to Secretary Abraham **9/22/2004 1:41:03 PM**

17a Open: **1** 17b. Closed: **0** 17c. Partially Closed: **0** 17d. Total Meetings **1**

Meeting Purposes and Dates

Review program progress and National Research Council report. **9/21/2004 9/22/2004**

	Current Fiscal Year	Next Fiscal Year
18a(1) Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	**$0**	**$0**
18a(2) Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	**$0**	**$0**
18a(3) Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	**$0**	**$0**
18a(4) Personnel Pmts to Non-member Consultants	**$0**	**$0**
18b(1) Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	**$5,630**	**$9,000**
18b(2) Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	**$8,814**	**$6,000**
18b(3) Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	**$0**	**$0**
18b(4) Travel and Per Diem to Non-Member Consultants	**$0**	**$0**
18c.Other(rents,user charges,graphics,printing,mail etc.)	**$0**	**$2,000**
18d Total	**$14,444**	**$17,000**
19. Federal Staff Support Years	**0.2**	**0.2**

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The committee, which held its first meeting in May 2001, plans to meet once a year to review the Department of Energy program and the state of the art in hydrates research, and to make recommendations for future research directions. In December 2002, the committee delivered a Congressional report on the impacts on global climate

change from methane hydrate formation and degassing and the consumption of natural gas produced from methane hydrates. The National Research Council (NRC) completed a "peer review" of the Federal Methane Hydrate program and provided a report to Congress and DOE in September 2004. The advisory committee met to discuss the NRC review and recommendations in September 2004.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Recommendations for new panel members are reviewed within DOE in preparation for the Secretary of Energy appointment of a new panel. (The current panel membership will expire as specified in the authorizing legislation, September 2005). Potential panel members were identified by a team of DOE hydrate managers from a list of known hydrate researchers and nominations received in response to an email to about 40 methane hydrate professionals. The proposed committee membership of eleven is geographically distributed and represents "industrial enterprises and institutions of higher education" as required by P.L. 106-193. Representatives of other government agencies are not included in the methane hydrate advisory committee because a separate high-level interagency coordinating committee assures that DOE receives information and advice from other government agencies that are involved in hydrate research.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee meetings?

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year - 1 Advise on future research directions is important to maintaining focus in this long-range research program. The DOE anticipates structuring its FY2006 research to address recommendations coming from the advisory committee.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

Methane Hydrates are methane-bearing, ice-like materials that occur in abundance in marine and Arctic sediments and store immense amounts of methane, natural gas. The U.S. Geological Survey (1995) estimates that the volume of methane contained in hydrates is several hundred times the estimated conventional natural gas resource in the U.S. Methane from hydrates offers the potential for clean, abundant energy after 2015 when conventional natural gas resources are expected to be declining. However, much multi-disciplinary research and development is necessary to turn this potential resource into gas reserves. Hydrates also merit study because of their occurrence in areas of conventional oil and gas production and transport, where sediment mass movement and methane release could be a hazard. Because of the large volume of carbon resident in hydrates and the complex interactions of methanogenic processes and hydrocarbon seepage to hydrates, their study is also significant to global carbon cycle modeling. The Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy has a $10 million per year research program to: characterize the occurrence of hydrates, develop production techniques, define and mitigate safety and seafloor stability issues, and understand the role of hydrates in the global carbon cycle. This program is coordinated with work by other government agencies, including U.S. Geological Survey, Minerals Management Service, Naval Research Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Science Foundation. The Methane Hydrate Research and Development Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-193) stipulated that the Methane Hydrate Advisory Committee be formed to advise the Assistant Secretary of Fossil Energy on potential applications of methane hydrate; assist in developing recommendations and priorities for the methane hydrate research and development program defined in the Act; and submit to Congress one or more reports on the anticipated impact on global climate change from methane hydrate formation and degassing and the consumption of natural gas produced from methane hydrates.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially close committee meetings?

This committee has not had and does not anticipate any closed meetings.

21. Remarks

Designated Federal Official: **Mr. Mark R. Maddox Principal Deputy to Assistant Secretary, Fossil Energy**

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation
Brewer, Dr. Peter	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute**
Charter, Mr. Richard	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Environmental Defense**
Holditch, Dr. Stephen	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Texas A & M University**
Johnson, Dr. Arthur	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Hydrate Energy International**
Jones, Mr. Emyrs	**9/21/2004**	**9/20/2006**	**ChevronTexaco**
Kastner, Dr. Miriam	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**University of California, San Diego**
Mahajan, Dr. Devinder	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Brookhaven Nat'l Lab, Chair Methane Hydrate Lab Working Group**
Millheim, Dr. Keith	**9/21/2004**	**9/20/2006**	**Anadarko Petroleum Corporation**
Roberts, Dr. Harry	**5/17/2001**	**9/20/2006**	**Louisiana State University**
Woolsey, Dr. Robert	**5/17/2004**	**9/20/2006**	**University of Mississippi**
Total Count of Committee Members			**10**